Injuries in Missouri

Data for Injury Prevention

Focus on Data

Data for Injury Prevention:

Data presented in *Injuries In Missouri: A Call to Action* are intended to illustrate the nature and extent of injuries in Missouri and each county within the state. This book provides baseline information that can be used for future comparisons of injury rates, monitoring trends, and evaluating the effectiveness of prevention interventions. The Focus on Injuries section provides a narrative definition of the injuries referenced in this book.

The Department of Health and Senior Services maintains an extensive amount of data regarding injuries and deaths caused by injuries. The primary source of data for *Injuries in Missouri: A Call to Action* was the "injury" section of the Missouri Information for Community Assessment (MICA) system. MICA, accessed at www.dhss.state.mo.us, is an interactive system that allows anyone to create a table of specific data from various data files including injuries, deaths, hospital discharges, emergency room statistics, and others.

The injury data file within MICA utilizes data from the Patient Abstract System. Hospitals record information about the injuries and diseases of their emergency room patients and inpatients into the Patient Abstract System. The causes of the injuries are defined according to the external-cause codes (E codes) of the International Classification of Diseases-9th Revision-Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM).

The Patient Abstract System records the county of a patient's residence based on information obtained from the patient or informant. As a result, data shown in the county profiles reflects where an injured person resides, rather than the county where the injury occurred.

As stated earlier in this book, the incidence of injuries far surpasses the number of deaths caused by injuries. Due to this, the state and county injury profiles reflect injury (morbidity) data rather than deaths (mortality). The incidence of injuries provides a more comprehensive view of the magnitude of injuries in   Missouri. Interventions put in place to reduce morbidity will also have an impact on mortality.

The state and county profile tables provide a small portion of the information about injuries in Missouri. Additional information about injuries, both statewide and county level, can be accessed through the Department of Health and Senior Services' website at www.dhss.state.mo.us and selecting the data option. Through MICA, specific information about race, gender, age, patient type, injury mechanism, injury intention, and county may be chosen as variables for rows and columns to create tables about injuries.